

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 06289 201300Z

43

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 PM-03 DODE-00 SP-02 SAM-01 DRC-01

/056 W

----- 088612

P R 200950Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6057

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6289

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US JA KS

SUBJECT: CALL ON PRIME MINISTER: ROK/JAPAN AND ROK/US RELATIONS

BEGIN SUMMARY: I PAID COURTESY CALL ON PRIMIN KIM CHONG -PIL, SEPT 19, ACCOMPANIED BY DCM. LENGTHY AND RELAXED CONVERSATION COVERED RECENT ROK/JAPAN DISPUTE, FUTURE OF US/ROK RELATIONS, ROK DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION, AND RECENT CABINET SHUFFLE. LATTER TWO SUBJECTS BEING REPORTED SEPTEL. PRIMIN INDICATED SATISFACTION WITH IMMEDIATE OUTCOME OF RECENT DIFFICULTIES WITH JAPAN BUT EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER LEFTWARD DRIFT IN JAPANESE POLITICS AND LACK OF JAPANESE WILL TO CONTROL SUBVERSIVE ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS CHOSEN SOREN. HE EXPRESSE DEEP APPRECIATION FOR US EFFORTS DURING RECENT NEGOTIATIONS AND SAID ROKG WOULD NOW MAKE EFFORT TO CALM SITUATION. PRIMIN RESPONDED VERY FAVORABLY TO MY OFFER TO MAINTAIN CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH HIM AND TO WORK TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN US/ROK TIES. END SUMMARY.

1. PRIMIN, WHO WAS CALM AND FORTHCOMING THROUGHOUT THIS INITIAL CONVERSATION, IMMEDIATELY RAISED SUBJECT OF ROK/JAPAN RELATIONS AND RECENT DISPUTE. HE SAID BECAUSE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SEOUL 06289 201300Z

FONMIN KIM DONG-JO HAD PROVEN TOO ADAMANT IN HANDLING

JAPANESE, HE HAD PERSONALLY ASSUMED DIRECTION OF NEGOTIATIONS IN CLOSING STAGES AND HAD PERSUADED PRESIDENT TO ACCEPT SUGGESTIONS FOR COMPROMISES IN LANGUAGE OF SHIINA STATEMENT ON WHICH SETTLEMENT WAS EVENTUALLY BASED.

2. IN RETROSPECT, HE SAID, HE THOUGHT THAT IN TERMS OF JAPANESE ATTITUDES TOWARD CHOSEN SOREN AND ROK, NEGOTIATIONS HAD ACHIEVED SOME FAVORABLE RESULTS. HE FELT THAT GOJ HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO REALIZE DANGERS WHICH CHOSEN SOREN POSES TO ROK/JAPAN RELATIPNS AND TO JAPAN ITSELF AND THAT AS RESULT THIS EPISODE EVEN CHOSEN SOREN APPEARED DISPOSED TO BE MORE CAUTIOUS. HE ALSO THOUGHT THAT JAPANESE PUBLIC HAD BEEN AROUSED TO INADEQUACY OF JAPANESE ABILITY TO CONTROL SUBVERSIVE ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN ITS MIDST AND THAT THIS AWARENESS HAS EVEN BEGUN TO BE REFLECTED IN NORMALLY HOSTILE JAPANESE PRESS. (HE LATER SAID THAT ROKG INTENDED TO LIFT CURRENT BAN ON DISTRIBUTION OF ASAHI AND WOULD PERMIT YOMIURI TO REESTABLISH ITS OFFICE HERE IF IT "APOLOGIZES".)

3. PRIMIN MADE POINT OF EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR US EFFORTS DCM HAD CONTRIBUTED MANY USEFUL SUGGESTIONS. I TOOK THIS OCCASION TO STRESS THAT IT WAS WELL TO HAVE PERSONS ON HAND WITH LENGTHY EXPERIENCE AND GOOD CONTACTS IN ONE COUNTRY OR THE OTHER WHO COULD SPEAK FRANKLY AND BLUNTLY WHEN OCCASION REQUIRED. PRIMIN AGREED.

4. PRIMIN STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT DESPITE CURRENT SETTLEMENT PRESIDENT PARK REMAINS DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT LEFTWARD TREND APPARENT IN JAPANESE POLITICAL SCENE. HE THOUGHT GOJ HAD MUCH WORK TO DO ON THIS SCORE. I REPLIED THAT PRESIDENT HAD EXPRESSED SAME CONCERN TO ME IN OUR CONVERSATION ON PREVIOUS DAY AND REPEATED TO PRIMIN THAT THIS TREND IS OF EQUAL CONCERN TO USG. IN DISCUSSING TERMS OF ROK/JAPAN SETTLEMENT,WHICH PRIMIN DESCRIBED ALONG FAMILIAR LINES, I STRESSED IMPORTANCE THTAT ROKG DEAL WITH JAPANESE ON BASIS FULL COGNIZANCE OF REALITIES OF JAPANESE POLITICAL SITUATION, AND NEED TO STRENGTHEN FORCES IN JAPAN FRIENDLY TO KOREA. I VENTURED OPINION THAT WITH RESPECT CHOSEN SORE, ROKG HAD BEEN WISE TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SEOUL 06289 201300Z

RECOGNIZE LIMITATIONS ON GOJ IMPOSED BY SUCH REALITIES. PRIMIN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ROKG ACCEPTANCE OF JAPANESE POSITION ON CHOSEN SOREN HAD BEEN MADE IN RECOGNITION OF SUCH REALITIES.

5. PRIMIN THEN OUTLINED SCHEDULE FOR SPECIAL ENVOY SHIINA. HE NOTED THAT SHIINA PARTY INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS LDP FACTIONS AND SAID THAT PRESIDENT, RECOGNIZING

IMPORTANCE OF THIS GESTURE, WOULD MEET WITH THESE JAPANESE POLITICIANS ON MORNING SEPT 20. (IN EVENT, PRESIDENT WAS RUNNING SLIGHT FEVER AND MEETING DID NOT TAKE PLACE.) AFTER SHIINA DEPARTURE, PRIMIN SAID HE WOULD BROADCAST APPEAL TO KOREAN PEOPLE TO CALM SITUATION DOWN.

6. PRIMIN SAID THAT NEITHER GOVT WOULD PUBLISH EITHER TANAKA LETTER OR RECORD OF SHIINA'S ORAL STATEMENT. BOTH RECOGNIZED DANGERS OF LEAK AND PROBLEMS THAT BOTH WILL ENCOUNTER IN INTERPELLATIONS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE LEGISLATURES. THEY WILL THEREFORE AGREE ON WHAT EACH CAN SAY PUBLICLY ABOUT THEIR SETTLEMENT AND HOPE TO BE ABLE TO STICK TO THIS AGREED LANGUAGE.

7. PRIMIN READILY AGREED TO MY SUGGESTION THAT WE GET TOGETHER AFTER MY RETURN FROM HAWAII TO PERMIT ME TO BRIEF HIM ON CURRENT VIEWS OF KOREA IN WASHINGTON AND SITUATION IN US IN GENERAL AS IT RELATES TO KOREA. I STRESSED THAT PRESIDENT FORD HAS TAKEN COURAGEOUS STEPS AT CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL RISK TO HEAL OUR WOUNDS AND THAT COUNTRIES LIKE KOREA COULD RELY ON INNER STRENGTH OF US. AS EXAMPLE OF PRES FORD'S DESIRE FOR CONTINUITY IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, I CITED HIS SPEECH TO UNGA IN WHICH HE PLEDGED EFFORTS, DESPITE DIFFICULTIES THEY WOULD POSE FOR US, TO ASSIST LESS WEALTHY NATIONS THROUGH EXPANDED FOOD PROGRAMS.

8. IN RESPONSE TO MY REMARK THAT I REGRETTED USG HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO FULFILL ITS PL-480 COMMITMENTS, PRIMIN SAID US HAD NOT FAILED TO DELIVER ON ANY OF ITS PROMISES EXCEPT IN RARE INSTANCES WHERE DIFFICULTIES WERE ENCOUNTERED WITH CONGRESS OR OTHER FACTORS BEYOND USG CONTROL. HE EXPRESSED FULL UNDERSTANDING OF US PROBLEMS IN THESE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SEOUL 06289 201300Z

AREAS. HE SAID KOREAN PEOPLE REGARD US AS A GREAT NATION OF PRESTIGE AND INTEGRITY WHICH LIVES UP TO ITS COMMITMENTS. IN THIS CONTEXT, PRIMIN CONTRASTED CONTINUED US SUPPORT OF TAIWAN FOLLOWING OPENING OF DIALOGUE WITH PEKING WITH HASTE WITH WHICH JAPAN MOVED TO OPEN RELATIONS WITH PEKING AND TO CUT ITS TIES TO GRC.

9. I TOLD PRIMIN THAT HE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT US/ROK RELATIONS ARE BASED ON STRONG EMOTIONAL TIES AS WELL AS MUTUAL INTERESTS, AND THAT RECENT CRITICISM IN US OF POLITICAL SITUATION HERE AROSE BECAUSE THESE TIES ARE STRONG AND AMERICAN PEOPLE FEEL SPECIAL CONCERN FOR WHAT HAPPENS IN KOREA, AND THAT THIS IS CONSTRUCTIVE FORCE TO BE EXPLOITED FOR KOREA'S BENEFIT.

10. MEETING, WHICH LASTED SEVENTY MINUTES, ENDED WITH WARM MUTUAL EXPRESSION OF INTENTION TO DEVELOP CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP AND TO INTERPRET TO EACH OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES.

11. COMMENT: I WAS IMPRESSED BY STRONGLY REITERATED CONFIDENCE IN US AND DEPENDENCE OF KOREA ON STRONG AND ACTIVE AMERICAN ROLE IN THIS REGION. THERE IS NO DOUBT OUR JUDICIOUS USE OF PRESSURE ON BOTH JAPAN AND ROK (WHEN WE MOVE QUICKLY TO WARN AGAINST RUPTURE OF RELATIONS) STRENGTHENED OUR HAND AND GAINED NEW RESPECT FROM KOREANS.
SNEIDER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DISPUTES, CABINET, PL 480, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SEOUL06289
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740264-0834
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740927/aaaaawqo.tel
Line Count: 182
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUL 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <10 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CALL ON PRIME MINISTER: ROK/JAPAN AND ROK/US RELATIONS BEGIN SUMMARY: I PAID COURTESY CALL ON PRIMIN KIM CHONG -PIL
TAGS: PFOR, US, JA, KS, (KIM CHONG-PIL), (SNEIDER, RICHARD L)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005